

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

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an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing said absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

wherein said porous surface sheet comprises a film having a plurality of protrusions, each protrusion having a convex side and a concave side;

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wherein a hollow cavity is formed adjacent the protrusions on the convex side;

wherein a pore is provided at the bottom of said concave side of each protrusion such that the protrusion forms a minute aperture; and

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~~wherein said porous surface sheet is configured to prevent color deterioration on a side of the food adjoining said porous surface sheet by adding adds~~ to the breathability of said absorption sheet in both the horizontal and thickness directions.

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2. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 1;

wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

3. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 1;

wherein said drip absorption mat is ~~configured as a tray mat~~ sized to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

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4. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

wherein the drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance, in the thickness direction, that does not exceed 1.00 Kpa·s/m.

5. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;

wherein a ventilation resistance value of said porous surface sheet in the thickness direction does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m.

6. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;

wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

7. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 4;

wherein said drip absorption mat is ~~configured as a tray mat~~ sized to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

8. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;

wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test methodology, comprising:

laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip absorption mat stack;

excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of layering; and

aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal direction.

9. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 8;
wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

5 10. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 8;
wherein said drip absorption mat is ~~configured as a tray mat~~ sized to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

10 11. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and
a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

15 wherein said porous surface sheet comprises a film having a plurality of protrusions, each protrusion having a convex side and a concave side;

wherein a hollow cavity is formed adjacent the ~~protrusion~~ protrusions on the convex side; and

wherein a pore is provided at the bottom of said concave side of each protrusion
20 such that the protrusion forms a minute aperture;

wherein a terminal portion of said porous surface sheet is adjacent the minute aperture and in contact with the absorption sheet; and

wherein the terminal portion forms a notched edge so as to facilitate air flow between the hollow cavity and the apertures.

25 12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
wherein said minute aperture is tapered with an opening of larger diameter on a
30 side configured to adjoin the food.

14. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
wherein said absorption sheet and said porous surface sheet are adhered to each other in a manner that does not clog said minute aperture.

15. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 14;
wherein the absorption and porous surface sheets are glued either at dots or in a
line.

5 16. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured
with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 15;
 wherein said drip absorption mat is ~~configured as a tray mat~~ sized to be laid on the
mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

10 17. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
 wherein said surface sheet defines a space occupied as a whole, said film
occupying not more than 30% of the space occupied as a whole.

15 18. (original) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
 wherein the number of said apertures is not below 20 per 1 cm².

20 19. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
 wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value
in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test
methodology, comprising:

 laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip
absorption mat stack;

 excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of
layering; and

25 aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal
direction.

20. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured
with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 11;

30 wherein said drip absorption mat is ~~configured as a tray mat~~ sized to be laid on the
mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

21. (currently amended) An absorption mat for receiving food item oozing liquid, comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb liquid; and

5 a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side for adjoining the food item, the first side defining a cavity between the absorption sheet and the surface sheet;

wherein the surface sheet is configured to support the food item while maintaining the cavity between the absorption sheet and the surface sheet; ~~and~~

10 wherein the surface sheet defines pores that allow liquid from the food item to flow through to the absorption sheet; and

wherein the cavity adds horizontal breathability to the absorption mat.